

STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

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Cold Case Playing Cards to be Distributed in DOC Facilities Throughout the State

Through a partnership with Delaware State Police (DSP), the New Castle County Police Department (NCCPD), the Wilmington Police Department (WPD) and <u>Crime Stoppers</u>, the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) will begin selling cold case playing cards to inmates housed in Level 5 prison facilities across the state. The decks of cards feature details about 52 unsolved homicides, unidentified remains and missing persons. Each card also has the phone number for Crime Stoppers in order for inmate's to supply information anonymously.

"All efforts to bring perpetrators of these crimes to justice are worth exploring," said DSP Colonel Nathanial McQueen. "Citizens incarcerated in our correctional facilities may be able to provide information or investigative leads that may lead to an arrest. It is important to the families of the victims and to the community that police continue to pursue every investigative lead."

"The DOC is a proud partner of this innovative project and we will continue to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies in order to support the victims and surviving family members," said DOC Deputy Commissioner Alan Grinstead. "As the largest law enforcement agency in the state, we have the unique opportunity to make these cards available to a population that may have information which could lead to the resolution of cold cases."

"Police officers are committed to investigating cases until they are solved," New Castle County Executive Matthew Meyer said. "This is just the latest example of how our police are working collaboratively with the Department of Correction and Crime Stoppers to use the latest and most effective strategies to protect the public by bringing those who commit crime, no matter when it occurred, to justice."

Surrounded by dozens of colleagues and representatives from local law enforcement agencies at a press conference this afternoon, NCCPD Colonel Vaughn Bond said, "There are many people here I want to thank, but there is a group most deserving of recognition: the families of the victims on the playing cards. We will never stop working to solve the violent crimes that took away your loved ones."

WPD Chief Robert Tracy added, "This is an innovative idea which we hope helps bring some form of closure to the families who have lost their love one, while bringing those responsible to justice."

Approximately 8,000 decks are available for purchase in DOC commissaries throughout the state. The cold case cards are the only playing cards available for purchase in DOC commissaries.

In addition to the cards, cold case videos have been produced and are available on the <u>NCCPD</u> <u>Cold Case Facebook page</u>. The videos will also be shown on DOC's closed circuit television station at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in Smyrna and in Probation and Parole offices across the state.